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**SRI LANKA**

## Water Partnership Quickly Flows Together

***A clean water delivery solution provides thousands of tsunami survivors with access to clean drinking water . . .***



**“The partnership between ITT, USAID, and ISB was a critical factor in our success with this project. USAID’s coordinating efforts facilitated the rapid deployment of ITT’s water treatment equipment to numerous locations throughout Sri Lanka, bringing clean, safe water to people in need.”**

**Mark Steele, President,  
ITT Industries - China Operations**

**T**he tsunami damaged and contaminated more than 15,000 wells in Sri Lanka with salt and debris, rendering them unsuitable for drinking. The refugee camps were filled with survivors who lost everything and clean drinking water was crucial for the recovery and prevention of diseases.

Meanwhile, U.S. portable water treatment products manufacturer ITT Industries had the knowledge and equipment they knew could save lives. Four days after the disaster, the China office of ITT contacted USAID/US-AEP Sri Lanka and within a matter of hours, US-AEP responded with needs assessments, recommendations on appropriate technologies, identification of potential implementing partners, and directions to ship and clear the equipment.

US-AEP “hot wired” a partnership between ITT, the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWS&DB), the Industrial Services Bureau (ISB), the Sri Lanka Army, and local NGOs (Sewa Lanka, Sarvodaya, and Green Movement) working in affected areas. Funds for local expenses was raised through a donation from Environmental System Products (ESP), a US-AEP project partner and USAID’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) grant to Mercy Corps.

ITT’s assistance included water purification equipment worth more than \$2 million consisting of 56 mobile water purification units (eight with desalination capabilities) and 70 chlorination units, which were passed on to NWS&DB. ITT provided the initial technical support and training while ISB identified sites and partners to operate, maintain and safeguard the equipment, as well as train local partners.

Each treatment unit delivered 1,800 gallons per hour of clean water to meet the needs of more than 8,000 people. These versatile units can be used in open wells, streams, rivers, and reservoirs. Units extended down a coastal belt of about 600 kilometers in the districts of Jaffna, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara, Hambantota, Matara and Galle. The units have been set up in public places like IDP camps, schools, temples, military camps, near tanks and by roadsides. As damaged communities regain functionality, the equipment will be moved to other areas in need of fresh water. Eventually, many of the units will be stored for use in flood and drought relief efforts, and will be maintained by ISB and the military.

An additional benefit of the initiative was that ITT Industries and ISB established a long-term partnership to explore the possibilities of developing cost effective water purification equipment for developing countries using ITT Industries’ development and testing capacities.

The successful technology transfer and teamwork behind it was highlighted by former U.S. Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton during their tour of the tsunami-damaged areas. Both the former presidents commended the generosity, the speed and timeliness of the response that provided a life saving commodity. US-AEP’s partnership building experience paid large dividends to address the tsunami disaster.